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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

(87)

144

ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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P R 2813002 OCT 86
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5513
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 KINGSTON 7966

USCINCSO FOR INTAFF

USCINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: GDS 10/27/86 (HAVERKAMP, R) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, PINT, JM
SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITREP NO. 6

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. VIOLENCE.
--SEVENTEEN PEOPLE DIED IN VIOLENT INCIDENTS BETWEEN OCTOBER 23 AND 26, INCLUDING A MAN WHO APPEARS ON THE POLICE'S TWELVE MOST WANTED LIST. (THIS IS THE SECOND GUNMAN ON THE LIST KILLED THIS MONTH.) DETAILS OF SEVERAL INCIDENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:
-- THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) REPORTED THAT ITS CANDIDATE FOR SOUTH WEST ST. ELIZABETH, DONALD BUCHANAN, WAS ATTACKED IN HIS CONSTITUENCY ON OCTOBER 27 BY A GROUP OF GUNMEN WHO BLOCKADED THE ROAD AND OPENED FIRE ON HIS CAR. TWO SECURITY OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO GUARD BUCHANAN WERE WOUNDED IN THE INCIDENT, AS WELL AS TWO OF THE ATTACKERS. FIVE MEN HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE SHOOTING..
-- ON OCTOBER 23 A SOLDIER WAS KILLED WHEN AN ESTIMATED TWENTY GUNMEN AMBUSHED A SECURITY FORCES PATROL IN DENHAM TOWN, LOCATED IN EDWARD SEAGA'S WEST KINGSTON CONSTITUENCY.
-- ON OCTOBER 23 A MAN WAS PULLED FROM A CITY BUS AND BEATEN TO DEATH BY A GROUP OF MEN IN GOLDEN SPRINGS, LOCATED IN THE WEST RURAL ST. ANDREW CONSTITUENCY. THIS AREA HAS EXPERIENCED SEVERAL INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE IN RECENT WEEKS.
-- FERDIE YAP, JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP) CANDIDATE FOR WEST CENTRAL ST. ANDREW, REQUIRED EIGHT STITCHES ON HIS HEAD ON OCTOBER 24 WHEN HE WAS ATTACKED WITH A STONE IN THE OLYMPIC GARDENS AREA OF HIS CONSTITUENCY. YAP CLAIMS THAT AFTR THE ATTACK HE HAD TO DRIVE AWAY QUICKLY AS A LARGE HOSTILE CROWD WAS DESCENDING UPON HIM.
-- GUNMEN DRESSED IN MILITARY-TYPE UNIFORMS KILLED A FATHER AND HI TWO-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER AND WOUNDED HIS COMMONLAW WIFE AND HER SISTER IN THE EARLY HOURS OF OCTOBER 24 IN AN ATTACK IN KINGSTON.
-- ON OCTOBER 24 SECURITY FORCES KILLED CHARELESTON WILLIAMS, A SUSPECTED MURDERER ON THE POLICE'S "12 MOST WANTED LIST," WHEN HE AND EIGHT OTHER ARMED MEN OPENED FIRE ON A SECURITY FORCES PATROL IN DENHAM TOWN. A .357 MAGNUM REVOLVER WAS FOUND ON THE DEAD MAN'S BODY.
-- A CAMPAIGN ORGANIZER FOR KARL SAMUDA, JLP CANDIDATE FOR NORTH WEST ST. ANDREW, WAS SHOT AND KILLED BY GUNMEN ON OCTOBER 24. HIS BODY REPORTEDLY WAS RIDDLED WITH THIRTY BULLETS. ACCORDING TO POLICE REPORTS, THE GUNMEN USED M-16S AS WELL AS HANDGUNS.
-- POLICE REPORTS INDICATE THAT M-16 RIFLES WERE USED TO KILL THE HUSBAND AND TWO YOUNG CHILDREN OF A PNP OCTIVIST ON OCTOBER 24 IN PORTLAN

-- THEVE MEMBERS OF THEWORKERS PARTY OF JAMAICA (WPJ), THE ISPAND'S LARGEST COMMUNIST GROUP, WERE ARRESTED IHLUCEA, HANOVER, ON OCTOBER 25 IN CONNECTION WITH THE SEIAURE OF TEN MOLOTOV COCKTAILS. THREE OF THOSE DETAINED ARE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. WPJ GENERAL SECRETARY OR. TREVOR MUNROE HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT CLAIMING THAT THE PARTY MEMBERS ARE INNOCENT.
-- ON OCTOBER 26 INTHE LONG-TROUBLED MOUNTAIN VIEW AREA, GUNMEN ATTACKED AND KILLED A JLP UPPORTER AND SET FIRE TO HIS HOUSE. THE JLP CANDIDATE FOR THE AREA ISSUED A STATEMENT CLAIMING THAT MANY OF HIS SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN HARRASSED IN RECENT DAYS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 KINGSTON 7966

USCINCSO FOR INTAFF

USCINCLANT FOR POLAD

1. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.
-- AIR JAMAICA CONDUCTED A BRIEF WILDCAT STRIKE ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 27 TO PROTEST CHARGES BY MINISTER OF FINANCE HUGH SHALL AT A NATIONAL WORKER'S UNION (NWU) MEETING THE DAY BEFORE THAT AIR JAMAICA EMPLOYEES WERE INEFFICIENT AND HAD ENGAGED IN SABOTAGE. THE AIR JAMAICA EMPLOYEES, WHO ARE CONTROLLED BY THE PRO-JLP BITU (BUSTAMANTE INDUSTRIAL TRADE UNION), DEMANDED A WRITTEN APOLOGY READ BY SHALL ON THE RADIO. SHALL COMPLIED BY TEN IN THE MORNING, SAYING HE WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS AT AIR JAMAICA GUILTY OF SABOTAGE AND INEFFICIENCY, WITHDRAWING HIS SUNDAY STATEMENT AND APOLOGIZING TO "THE PARTIOTIC MANAGERS AND WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN OFFENDED." (COMMENT: THIS WAS A BRIEF BUT VIVID DEMONSTRATION OF BITU POWER AND AN INDICATION OF THE DEGREE OF RESENTMENT IN SOME QUARTERS OVER THE INCREASINGLY VITUPERATIVE COMMENTS COMING FROM THE PNP LEADERSHIP. THAT SHALL ATE CROW SO QUICKLY SHOWS THAT HE HAS BEEN WARNED OF THE LIMITS TO WHICH HE CAN USE HIS POLITICAL RHETORIC TO CRITICIZE STILL-POWERFUL SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY. END COMMENT)
-- ON OCTOBER 24 JLP GENERAL SECRETARY BRUCE GOLDING STATED THE PARTY WOULD ASK THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTION TO PROSECUTE PNP GENERAL SECRETARY D.K. DUNCAN FOR BREACHING THE ELECTORAL LAW. DUNCAN WAS SHOWN ON JBC TELEVISION BRANDISHING A GUN AS HE CROUCHED ON THE SPEAKER'S PLATFORM TO AVOID ALLEGED GUNFIRE AT THE PNP OCTOBER 22 RALLY IN SPANISH TOWN. THE SECTION OF LAW IN QUESTION MAKES IT ILLEGAL TO HAVE AN OFFENSIVE WEAPON (INCLUDING FIREARMS) AT A PUBLIC POLITICAL MEETING BETWEEN NOMINATION DAY AND ELECTION DAY. PRIME MINISTER MANLEY, IN A NEWS SPOT ON JBC ON SATURDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 25, LAMELY RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT THERE WAS NO BREACH OF THE ELECTORAL LAW BECUASE BY THE TIME DUNCAN PULLED HIS GUN, THE MEETING HAD BROKEN UP.
-- MEMBERS OF THE JAMAICA DEFENSE FORCE AND THE JAMAICA CONSTABULARY FORCE VOTED ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, IN ORDER TO FREE THEM FOR DUTY ON OCTOBER 30, BUT THE PROCESS WAS NOT A SMOOTH ONE. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SOME POLLING STATIONS FAILED TO REVEICE BALLOT PAPERS, OTHERS WERE SENT TOO FEW BALLOTS, AND SOME SECURITY FORCE MEMBERS COULD NOT FIND THEIR NAMES ON THE VOTERS LIST. AT THE REQUEST OF THE JLP, THE ELECTORLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELO AN EMERGENCY MEETING ON SUNDAY, AND IS ALLEGEDLY WAS DECIDED TO SEEK AN AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS TO ALLOW THOSE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES WHO WERE UNABLE TO VOTE ON SATURADY THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE ON ANOTHER DAY. THE PRIMIN HAS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 29 AS THE ALTERNATE DATE FOR POLICE TO VOTE AND HAS DESCRIBED SATURDAY'S CONFUSION AS POTENTIALLY HELPFUL IN THAT IT IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS WHICH NEDD CORRECTION.

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-- AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS CARP DUNBAR SAID THAT THE VOTERS LIST, WHICH IS OFFICIALLY CLOSED, CONTAINS 890,367 NAMES, UP FROM THE 878,972 ON THE 1976 LIST. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE ELECTORAL OFFICE WAS STILL HAVING DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING ACCOMMODATION FOR ALL OF THE 6,478 POLLING STATIONS NEEDED FOR THE ELECTION AND IN LOCATING THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF POLL CLERKS AND RESIDING OFFICERS. THE FEAR OF VIOLENCE, HE SAID, WAS CAUSING SOME PEOPLE TO RESCIND AGREEMENTS TO HOUSE THE POLLING STATIONS AND KEEPING OTHERS FROM VOLUNTEERING THEIR SERVICES FOR ELECTION DUTIES.
-- DAILY GLEANER COLUMNIST DAWN RITCH HAS DISPUTED THE PNP'S ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAPPENED AT THE SPANISH TOWN RALLY ON OCTOBER 22, WHEN D.K. DUNCAN WAS SEEN BRANDISHING A PISTOL. RITCH WRITES THAT THE SOUND OF SHOTS FROM A TAPE RECORDER IN A PNP TRUCK HEADING TOWARD THE RALLY WAS HEARD PRIOR TO THE DISRUPTION OF THE RALLY. SHE ALSO MAINTAINS THAT THE ONLY SHELLS RECOVERED AT THE SCENE BELONGED TO THE POLICE. SHE IMPLIES THAT THE EVENT WAS STAGED TO CAST BLAME ON THE JLP AND/OR THE SECURITY FORCES.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 KINGSTON 7966

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS FOR INTAFF

USCINCLANT NORFOLK FOR POLAD

-- POLICE BALLISTIC REPORTS INDICATED THAT CPL. WHYTE POLICE BODY GUARD FOR THE LATE ROY MCGANN. THE PNP CANDIDATE KILLED ON NOMINATION DAY, WAS SHOT BY MCGANN'S FIREARM, ACCORDING TO AN OCTOBER 24 STATEMENT BY PRIMIN MANLEY. MANLEY CLAIMED THAT AS MCGANN WAS KILLED BEFORE WHYTE. THEE WAS NO WAY OF KNOWING WHO FIRED THE GUN. THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE JLP HOWEVER, REPEATED A STATEMENT BY DK DUNCAN THAT WHYTE WAS KILLED BEFORE MCGANN. THE BALLISTIC REPORT WILL ONLY ADD TO THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING MCGANN'S DEATH.
-- ACCORDING TO THE DAILY GLEANER OF SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 THE JLP HAS CALLED ON THE SECURITY FORCES TO PLACE SEVEN HIGH RANKING CUBAN OFFICIAL UNDER CLOSE SURVEILLANCE. THE JLP CHARGED THAT THE CUBANS ARRIVED ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22. THE JLP ALSO ASKED FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO WHAT WAS TERMED THE "MYSTERIOUS LANDING" ON OCTOBER 20 OF AN "ANATOV CUBAN COMBAT TROOP CARRIER" FROM WHICH ELEVEN LARGE WOODEN CRATES WERE UNLOADED. THE JLP ALSO ASKED FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ARRIVAL OF A CUBAN SHIP "TOPAZ ISLAND" AT KINGSTON HARBOR EARLY THIURSDAY MORNING. THE JLP STATED THAT THE SHIP MADE NO REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO DOCK. BUT REMAINS ANCHORED IN THE HARBOR A JLP CANDIDATE ON OCTOBER 25 ALLEGED TO EMBOFF THAT THE CUBAN SHIP HAD OFFLOADED A NUMBER OF HEAVY STEL DRUMS WHICH HE SUSPECTED CONTAINED ELECTORAL INK TO BE SUBSTI TUTED FOR THE REAL OE LA RUE INK. COMMENT: RUMOR OF NEFARIOUS CUBAN ACTIVITIES ARE FLYING FAST AND HEAVY BUT WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THERE IS ANY REAL FIRE BEHIND THESE REPORTED SMOKE SIGNALS. THE PANAMANIAN VESSEL MAY WELL BE HERE TO TAKE CUBANS OFF THE ISLAND IF THE JLP WINS. END COMMENT) ON SATURDAY THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR ULISES ESTRADA, ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT SEVEN MEN WHO ARRIVED ON THE 22 ND WERE. TWO CUBAN MFA OFFICIALS, A JOURNALIST FROM PRENSA LATINA: A DIPLOMAT IN TRANSIT, A SPANISH LANGUAGE PROFESSOR AT THE LANGUAGE TRAINING CENTER, AND A DIPLOMATIC COURIER WHO RETURNED TO CUBA THE SAME DAY. THE ELEVEN LARGE CRATES WERE LISTED BY ESTRADA AS BOOKS. DOCUMENTS AND STATIONERY FOR THE EMBASSY. HE SAID THE "TOPAZ ISLAND" WAS PANAMANIAN NOT CUBAN, AND WAS UNDER CONTRACT TO COLLECT EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS OF THE CUBAN CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE WHICH WAS NOT BEING UTILIZED.
--AGAIN RAISING THE ISSUE OF THE PNP'S ABILITY TO MANAGE THE ECONOMY, THE DAILY GLEANER ON OCTOBER 22, IN A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE DECLARED THAT A SEVERE SHORTAGE OF FOODSTUFF HIT THE CORPORATE (KINGSTON) AREA OVER THE PREVIOUS WEEKEND. "SUPERMARKETS AND SHOPS WERE ALMOST BARE OF MOST ITEMS OF FOOD AND MEATS WERE VERY SCARECE.." SUBSEQENT INVESTIGATION BY EMBASSY EMPLOYEES INDICATED THAT THE SPOT SHORTAGES WHICH EXISTED AFTER THE LONG WEEKEND WERE DUE TO A CONVERGENCE OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, NOT TO AN OVERALL SHORTAGE OF FOOD SUPPLIES. POULTRY WAS IN TEMPORARY SHORT SUPPLY BECAUSE OF THE HOLIDAY RELATED SHORT WORK WEEK AT PROCESSING PLANTS. THE POULTRY SHORTAGE CAUSED, IN TURN, INCREASED DEMAND FOR BEEF AND PORK PRODUCTS, WHICH HAD BEEN MAINTAINED AT ONLY NORMAL LEVEL BY SUPERMARKETS. OTHER IMPORTANT FOOD ITESM SUCH AS FLOUR AND RICE WERE ADEQUATE TO MEET NORMAL DEMAND. BUT MARKET DEMAND HAS INCREASED RECENTLY AS HIGH PRICES FOR YAMS AND BANANAS HAVE CAUSED CONSUMER TO SWITCH TO THE LOWER COST, IMPORTED STARCHES. RECENT FLOUR AND RICE IMPORTS WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET EVEN THIS ABOVE NORMAL DEMAND.
-- ACCORDING TO THE FINDINGS OF THE JBC/DAILY NEWS POLL WHICH WAS CONDUCTED BETWEEN OCTOBER 7 AND 12 AMONG 1,237 VOTERS "VIOLENCE "RANKED AS THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FOR 27 PERCENT OF THE VOTERS. "UNEMPLOYMENT" WAS THE CHOICE OF 19 PERCENT WHILE "OTHER ECONOMIC FACTORS" WAS THE PRIMARY CONCERN OF 14 PERCENT. "COMMUNISM "WAS RANKED AS THE MAJOR CONCERN OF ONLY 4 PECENT OF THE POPULATION.
LAWRENCE

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